and also to prevent their exploitation by the milk vendors in urban areas, a Scheme of rehabilitation of Gujjars was formulated by the Government of Uttar Pradesh with the approval of the Gujjars themselves. Subsequently, a section of Gujjars protested against this rehabilitation and the matter was agitated before the Supreme Court of India also. However, the writ petition was dismissed.

In order to save the biodiversity of Rajaji National Park and to rehabilitate the Gujjars properly, an area of 80 ha. of Pathri forests has been earmarked. 512 houses with cattle sheds and feeding stalls have been built with amenities like school facilities, community hall etc. The Gujjars are being persuaded to move to the Pathri colony.

Ecological imbalance in Arunachal Pardesh

2748. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the age old Jhum cultivation is threatening to create a disastrous ecological imbalance in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to restore the rich flora and fauna of the area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) Forest Survery of India has estimated, by the visual interpretation of Landsat imagery pertaining to the year 1984, that 8521 sq km of the forest area are affected by shifting cultivation in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. This constitutes about 10% of the total geographical area of the state. As in the case of other North-Eastern States, this traditional method of agriculture has adversely affected the regeneration status and productivity of the forest areas.

(d) State Government has been implementing various Jhum control programmes to wean away Jhumias from this practice and to settle them in permanent agriculture and other economically attractive activities. Under one such innovative scheme entitled 'Apna Van', the State Forest Department is providing limited subsidy to the farmers for tree planting activities on private/degraded Jhum lands.

Indian forest service officers serving in Bihar

2749. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM : Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officers belonging to Indian Forest Service serving in Bihar State;

(b) the number of Scheduled Caste Officers therein;

(c) the number of officers sent to Foreign studies/Foreign assignments;

(d) the number of officers belonging to Scheduled Castes sent to Foreign Studies/ Foreign assignment; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) 145;

(b) 19;

(c) 04 (1992-93);

(d) Nil;

(e) No eligible Scheduled Caste Officer was available in the State Cadre in the Zone of consideration for training/foreign assignment abroad.

Ganga Action Plan

2750. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what were the main objectives/targets which the Ganga Action Plan launched in June, 1986 sought to achieve;

(b) whether those objectives/targets have been achieved; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor and how the various bottlenecks and difficulties that have arisen vis-a-vis the State Governments and other implementation agencies are intended to be resolved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) The Ganga Action Plan (GAP) was launched in 1986 for abatement of pollution of the river Ganga, and to improve its water quality to bathing standards. To achieve the same, 261 schemes for interception and diversion of domestic sewage, sewage treatment, low cost sanitation,